

BROOKE INDIA

Action for Working Horses and Donkeys



More Info:
www.thebrooke.org/our-work/india

Annual Report
2022-23

We continue to ensure sustainable improvements in equine welfare among equine-owning communities

1

Running 36 equine welfare projects in 11 states

2

Reaching and improving lives of 164,042 equines directly

3

Empowering over 84,035 equine owners economically

4

Providing extended touch support to 29 equine welfare projects



Brooke India has embarked on a very challenging task of promoting sustainable equine welfare by formulating a three-year strategic plan through six global goals. The new three-year strategic plan starts this year, and defines a realistic goal of reaching 0.3 million working equines through an intensive approach in 11 states in India.



Theory of change

We recognise the complex interaction between the equine, the equine-owning communities and the system in which they co-exist. We believe that change in human behaviour needs to happen at all levels to achieve transformational change for the equines and the communities that rely on them.

Our mission

Our mission is to achieve immediate and lasting positive change in the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the communities that depend on them.

Our vision

Our vision is of a world in which working horses, donkeys and mules are free from suffering and have a life worth living.



Our interventions are streamlined into multiple phases so that agents of change are sustainably capable even after the phase is over. All the units are divided into three phases, based on the years of operation in the particular unit. This year, five new equine welfare projects will be started: Kaimur, Surat, Almora, Tehri & Rohtak.



Equines and owners reached by region :

Region A		
Unit Name	Equines (No.)	Owners (No.)
Amethi	4099	3515
Banda	3926	905
Bhariach	7419	2602
Fatehpur	4524	1977
Kaushambi	4538	1425
Ballia	6928	3018
Buxar	4943	2263
Ghazipur	5366	2192
Mau	3217	1266
Pratapgarh	3455	3049
Rohtas	3978	1526
Kaimur	New Unit (2023-24)	

Region B		
Unit Name	Equines (No.)	Owners (No.)
Agra	4503	1936
Barmer	4005	1418
Churu	3490	2849
Dholpur	3374	1746
Kutch	3795	1556
Patan	4786	948
Bharuch	7576	740
Sangli	5131	568
Satara	4648	644
Solapur	7497	640
Vadodara	5793	921
Surat	New Unit (2023-24)	

Region C		
Unit Name	Equines (No.)	Owners (No.)
Dehradun	8317	2137
Kashipur	9646	8179
Pithoragarh	4447	1260
Uttarakashi	6111	3626
Ambala	3359	2266
Amritsar	3716	3541
Chamba	5318	1966
Mandi	4907	2896
Karnal	4375	2384
Kathua	New Unit (2023-24)	
Almora		
Tehri		
Rohtak		

(The units highlighted in yellow will be operational in next financial year 2023-24)

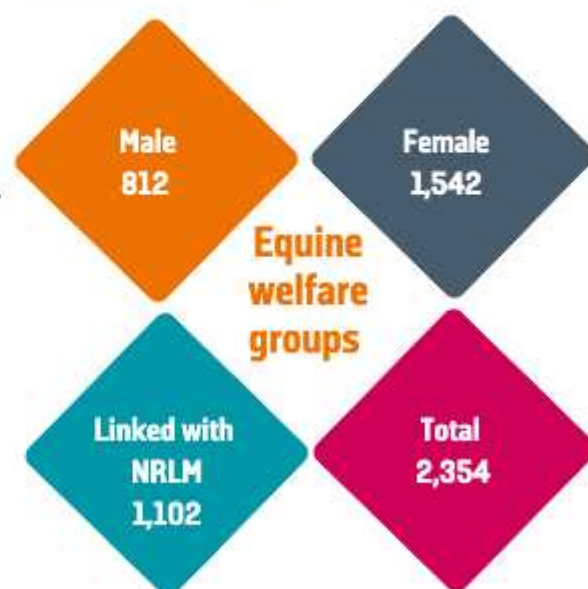
Economically resilient communities

Developing the long-term linkages between the equine welfare group and various government schemes is the key to making sustainable changes in the economic resilience of the equine owners and equine wellbeing.



In the year 2022-23, Brooke India facilitated the strengthening and formation of equine welfare groups. Out of this 1,102 women groups are linked with the National Rural Livelihood Mission/National Urban Livelihood Mission .

Subsequently, some of these groups formed equine welfare associations to sustain equine welfare initiatives on a larger scale.



Highlights for financial year 2022 - 23

Donkey skin trade



A significant decline in the donkey population in India has revealed a potential illegal trade in donkeys for their skin.

Brooke India organised an awareness campaign for this issue.

01

A workshop on awareness on the illegal donkey skin trade.

02

Animal Welfare Board of India issued demi official letter to prevent the illegal trade of donkey skin.

03

The media engaged with the donkey skin trade workshop and brought the conversation around illegal skin trade to the mainstream.

04

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Commissioner of Pune and was attended by the Livestock Development Officer, Government Veterinary Officer, department staff, and Brooke India staff.

Highlights of 2022-23

Ashwamitra Sammelan - 2022

Ashwamitra Sammelan (friends of the equine-peer educators in communities) is an annual event that brings together equine owners from different locations. Brooke India organised Ashwamitra Sammelan across the four locations in Quarter three : Lucknow, Gandhi Nagar, Ahmednagar and Haridwar.



Ashwamitra Sammelan was a grand success and was recognised as a platform for sharing and learning. The team has decided to organise it in a more decentralised way in the next year

Equine owners participated and presented innovative ideas on equine management and livelihood options

Number of equine groups and associations displayed and demonstrated their works for learning

Regional teams organised marketplaces to display products of groups and association

Highlights of 2022 - 23

We are a 'Great Place to Work'

Brooke India has been certified as a Great Place to Work for the year 2023-24.

This prestigious recognition reaffirms our commitment to fostering a positive and engaging work environment for our employees.

This certification motivates us to continuously strive for excellence, empower our workforce, and create a workplace where everyone feels valued and inspired.

A testament to our employees' dedication, passion, and teamwork has contributed to our success. At Brooke India, we have prioritised employee well-being, professional growth, and a culture of inclusivity.



A few glimpses from our workshops, training and team building exercises



Highlights of 2022 - 23

Introduction of microchips for equines

The Animal Husbandry Department issued an advisory to the states and union territories on the use of microchips or small ear tags for the identification of the equines. This advisory is an outcome of the continuous follow-ups and efforts made by Brooke India to promote non-invasive identification methods for equines. The state and union territories governments were advised to explore the feasibility of subsidising the cost of microchipping in the equines to have a better system of animal identification.



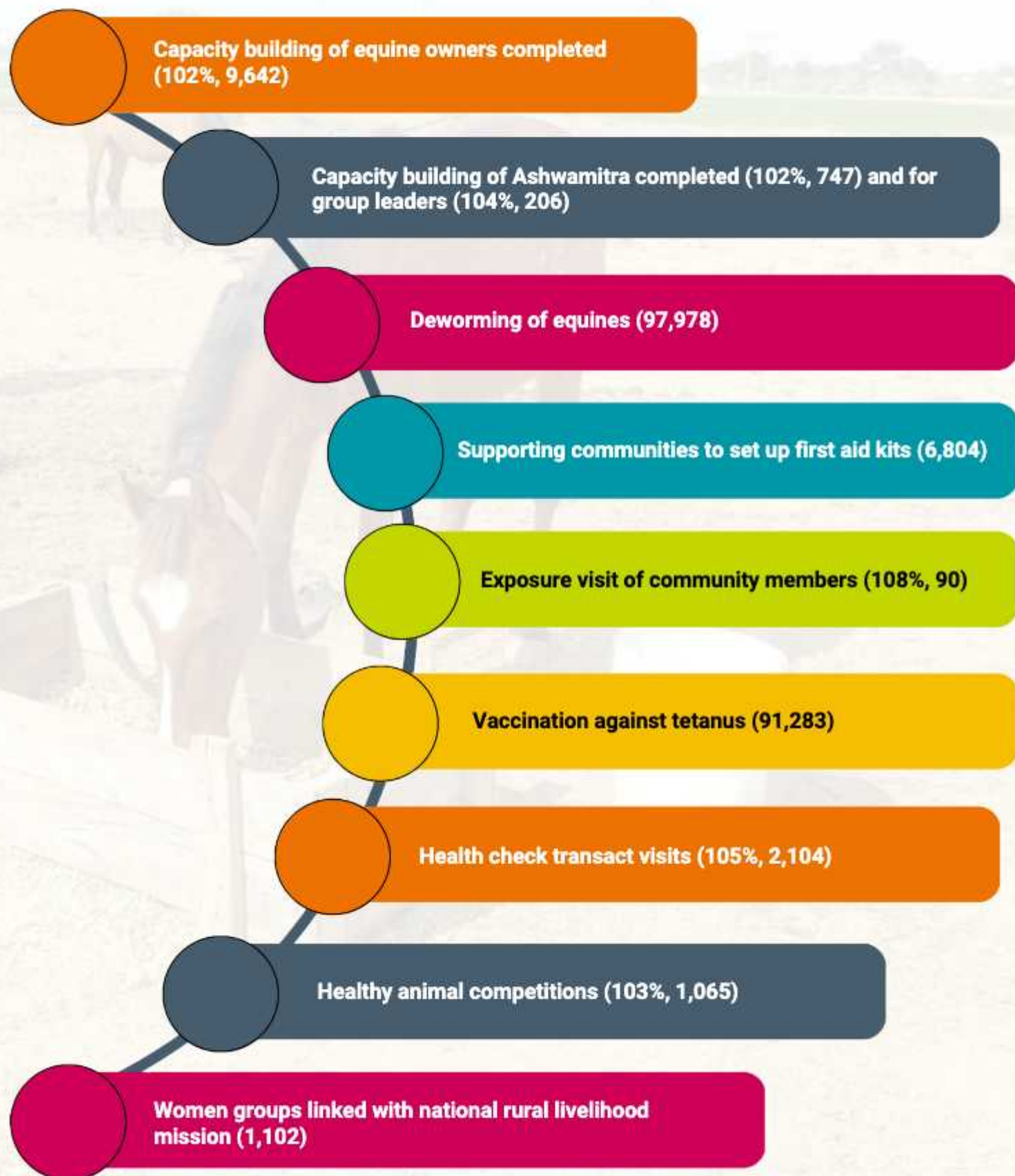
Inclusion of equine specific medicines and tetanus vaccines at Uttar Pradesh government's veterinary hospitals

The Animal Husbandry Department, Uttar Pradesh, under the direction of a special secretary, who issued the list of recommended equine-specific medicines at government veterinary hospitals of the state. The order directs the department of disease control to ensure that all equine-related drugs and vaccines are made available in 13 districts of Brooke India's operational area.

The development is a breakthrough as the availability of equine drugs and vaccines is crucial in ensuring the timely treatment and well-being of the animal. With easy availability of medicines at government veterinary hospitals, people could access the treatment for their equines easily.



A quick glimpse into our key activities in year 2022 - 23



Highlights from the regions of 2022 - 23

Region (A) Lucknow



Introduction of iron framed light weight carts at the brick-kiln to reduce load burden on equines (713 carts were built)



Radium collar belts for equines to safeguard against accidents



Capacity building and training of association member/community resource person through Haqdarshaks training app to avail benefits of government schemes



Wide scale preparation and distribution of balanced feed



Ashwamitra Sammelan was organised to facilitate cross learning among the equine owners at Lucknow

Region (B) Gandhinagar



Donkey skin trade workshop was successfully organised in Pune



Training workshops for the vet students on equine friendly handling practices



Collaboration with the local authorities to issue certificates for safe transportation of donkeys



Capacity building and training of association member/ resource person through Haqdarshaks training app to avail benefits of government schemes



Ashwamitra Sammelan was organised to facilitate cross learning among the equine owners at Gandhinagar & Ahmednagar

Region (C) Dehradun



Spread of napier cultivation in other new sites



Inclusion of Champawat under equine welfare project in Pithoragrah



Capacity building and training of association member/ resource person through Haqdarshaks training app to avail benefits of government scheme



Health camps at the difficult geographies of Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Bugyal to provide emergency treatment to equines



Ashwamitra Sammelan was organised to facilitate cross learning among the equine owners at Haridwar

Highlights from animal health and welfare



- Intervention in equine fairs in Sonapur Bihar, Deva Sharif Uttar Pradesh, Ganganagar Rajasthan, Malegaon Maharashtra, Kundoli Uttar Pradesh etc.
- Training of veterinary students at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya, Mathura; Kamdhenu University, Anand; Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya; Bihar Veterinary College, Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna; College of Veterinary Science, Govind Ballabh Pant University, Pantnagar).
- Capacity building of Brooke India programme staff of all three regions on harnessing and saddlery.
- Memorandum of understanding with Agriculture Skill Council of India and Flying Anvil Foundation India prepared.
- Animal handling and restraining completed for newly recruited Brooke India headquarters staff.
- Capacity building of Brooke India vets and farriers through Flying Anvil Foundation India, Dundlod.
- Master trainer farrier refresher training by Brooke UK farriers.
- Animal Health Mentoring Framework refresher training: This training was conducted in two batches by the Brooke UK animal health team – training of trainers and basic training.
- Harness & saddlery virtual workshop was conducted by the Brooke UK animal welfare team which was attended by Brooke India staff.

Advocacy and collaboration with the government



- Awareness workshop on donkey skin trade in Maharashtra in June 2022.
- Uttar Pradesh livestock development board, for the first time covers the whole current intensive village equine population under their annual target for livestock insurance in September 2022.
- Brooke India participated in the ninth India Corporate Social Responsibility Summit in November 2022.
- Brooke India participated in the International Ayush Conference in Goa in December 2022.
- Brooke India participated in "In Solidarity with the Children of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation" in Nepal in December 2022.
- Knowledge partners like Animal Nepal, Sahbhangi Shikshan Trust and Flying Anvil Foundation India collaborated to disseminate the policies on equine welfare in the year 2023.
- Awareness workshop on donkey skin trade in Andhra Pradesh in February 2023.
- Seminar on One Health on the "Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Promotion of One Health in India-A Futuristic Perspective" in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute in February 2023.
- National consultation workshop on "Social dimensions in the brick sector: challenges and a way forward" in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Nepal in March 2023.
- Implementation of equine insurance in Barmer, Churu and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan in March 2023
- The One Health Camp, jointly organised by One Health Support Unit and Brooke India, raised awareness about zoonotic diseases and equine welfare in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand in March 2023.

Social media



Brooke Hospital For Animals (India)
@BrookeIndia1

In a landmark decision, Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) of Rajasthan had included equines in the state livestock insurance scheme under National Livestock Mission a few months ago.



Now, equine insurance is being implemented in Churu.



Brooke Hospital For Animals (India)
@BrookeIndia1

Brooke India (BI) participated in the Regional Consultation To Finalize the Draft Regional Action Plan to End All Forms of Child Labour in South Asia 21-25.

BI, lead the presentation on the brick kilns in South Asian countries and discussed about the significance of the animals.



Brooke Hospital For Animals (India)
@BrookeIndia1

Brooke India in collaboration with National Academy of Veterinary Science-India (NAVS(I)) organised a seminar on "Continuous Veterinary Education (CVE) in India". The event brought together policy makers,



Brooke Hospital For Animals (India)
@BrookeIndia1

BI participated in International Patients Union Conference. As a panelist BI Country Director discussed about the significance of One Health, highlighting on the need of bringing animal health into mainstream thus adopting holistic approach towards attaining positive solutions.



Brooke Hospital For Animals (India)
@BrookeIndia1

Ashwamitra Sammelan, being organized by BI at Gandhinagar, witnessed a far-reaching presence of Equine-Owners participating in knowledge sharing and learning alongside displaying EWG products at their stalls.

[#Ashwamitra_Sammelan](#)

[#BrookeIndia](#) [#AnimalWelfare](#) [#Equines](#)



Case study - One

Creating avenues of alternate income generation for women through upskilling

On the outskirts of Barmer region, Rajasthan there lies a village called Mahabar. Known for the tradition of pottery making, the poor village women had been supporting their family's income by making and decorating pottery. Their donkeys have a crucial role to play. Raw mud from the nearby ponds is loaded on the equine's back and transported to the village to make potteries. The finished products are then taken to the market for selling the items.

With the advent of machine-made mass production of ceramics and pots, the demand for handmade potteries is on the decline. During one of the visits of the Brooke ground team to the village, the women shared their plight with the Brooke field assistant. After much discussion and exploring all the alternatives available, the field assistant suggested that the women could engage in saddle pad making for the equines. One of the members of the Peer Jalani equine welfare group in the village was also trained in sewing, tailoring, and making saddle pads with old clothes. The field assistant encouraged the member to teach others and produce saddles for the equines as per Brooke's standard.

Guidance and support from Brooke's ground team encouraged the women to start the saddle pad-making initiative. The 12-member group also received an initial funding support of Rs. 17,500/- from the Brooke India programme support fund. The amount was utilised to buy raw materials such as cotton fabric, silk threads and needles for sewing. Brooke's team was constantly guiding the group to use the right fabric and ensure thickness and appropriate size. In the first few weeks of intervention, the group could produce about 200 saddles for Rs.155/- for a pair of saddle pads.



(Fig: Discussion over different income generation activities)

The next challenge was to connect the group to the market to sell the produce and generate the right income. Brooke's team linked the group to the other equine-owning communities in the nearby villages. Information about the quality and availability of the saddle pads was spread widely in Brooke's intervention areas and network.

Samples of the saddle pads were also sent across to the equine owners located in Brooke's intervention areas.



(Fig: Saddle pad making under Brooke's guidance)

Equine owners were quite impressed seeing the quality of the newly made saddle pads. The saddle pads sewed by the women group were lightweight, absorbent of sweat, and skin-friendly. Usage of rough fabric and uneven thickness of the saddle pads have caused skin sores to their equines previously.

The owners were hopeful that the use of appropriately cushioned saddle pads would ease the painful friction between the equine and the saddle and reduce the probability of equines developing girth galls. That is how Peer Jalani equine welfare group received their first order for the saddle pads. Brooke's ground team has been supporting the women to connect with a larger network.



(Fig: Equine owners purchasing saddle pad)

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Case study - Two

Positive changes brought with right management practices- lives of equine owners in ganga brick-kiln

Working in a brick kiln is incredibly challenging. Built on open wide fields under the sun, the kilns have scorching temperatures, with sudden dust storms and an abundance of insects and flies. However, the marginalised equine owners take up the work for the sake of providing for their families and sending their children to school.

Equines at the Ganga brick kiln, Bharuch, Gujarat, have been suffering from multiple skin issues and deteriorating fur coats for a long time. There were also frequent cases of sores and skin inflammation. Equine owners were spending a considerable amount of money to access immediate medical assistance for their equines. But the root cause remained ignored. They didn't know that the hazardous environment at the brick kiln was to be blamed. Heavy dust at the brick kiln exposes the animals to insects, and small ectoparasites (parasites that live on the external surface of hosts) such as ticks, bot flies, and lice.

The parasites that live on equines' fur coats lead to intense itching. Irritation caused by insects would lead to extensive rubbing, resulting in sores. On close observation of Brooke's ground team, it was found that some of the sores became infected causing skin inflammation among the equines. Bot flies, insects and lice lay their eggs on the equines' back which is covered with hair. The eggs trapped in the animals' pores or hair follicles, often end up in animals' intestines through the mouth, causing pain in their abdomen.

A Brooke India field assistant also noticed that the owners at the brick kiln do not brush their donkeys regularly. He decided to persuade the owners to brush their donkeys. During regular visits to the brick kiln, he would emphasise brushing and would also demonstrate the right way of brushing to ensure the donkeys are cleaned of dust or ash. Owners were also informed that the brushing not only cleans the animals but also improves their overall blood circulation and maintains the right body temperature. Despite initial reluctance from the owners, a young enthusiast, Akshay Ramesh Bhai Ode, son of an equine owner proactively volunteered to brush.

Akshay started with brushing three of his donkeys to experience the difference. He continued the process for 15 days consistently which was closely monitored by the field assistant. He would brush the donkeys as per the guidance after the animal returned from work.



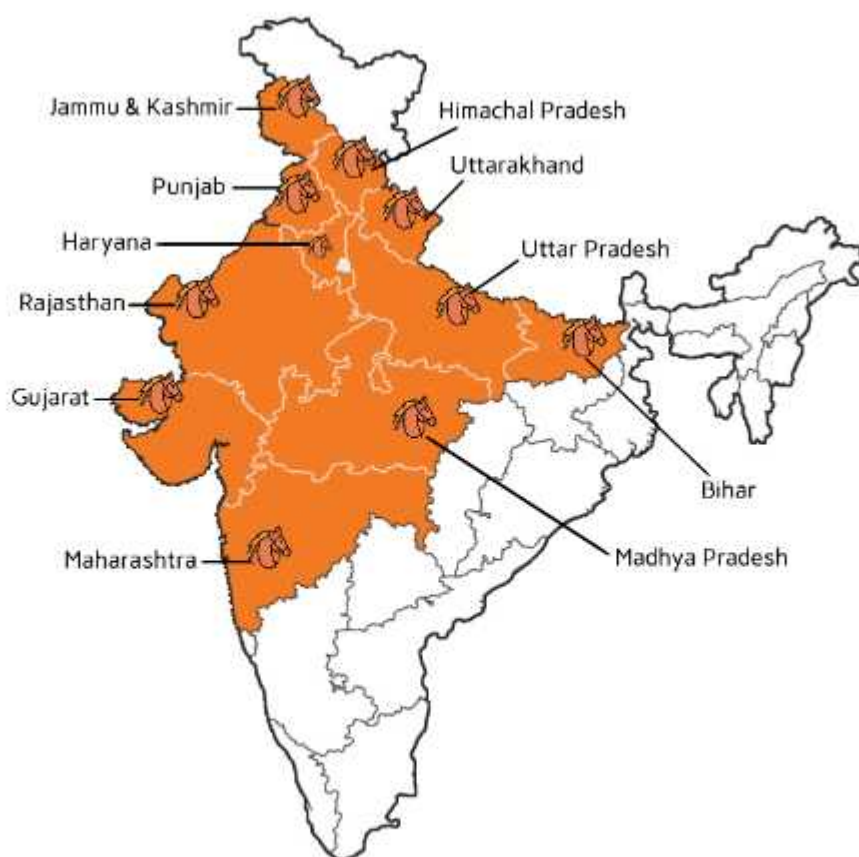
On the 15th day, the field assistant visited Akshay to see the results of the experiment. Akshay reported that the three donkeys he brushed daily had visibly polished and healthy fur coats. The skin looked shinier too. However, the bigger difference was the animal's behaviour. Previously, due to itching and sores, the animal would often refuse to walk, get aggressive and show problematic behaviour. Regular cleaning led to lesser itching, easing the everyday lives of the donkeys at the brick kiln. donkeys followed their owner's command without creating much of a hassle.



(Fig: Brushing the equine while feeding)

A change in diet intake was noticed as well. Unlike before, donkeys ate well and did not seem as irritated as before. The example was set for others to follow. Seeing considerable change in the overall behaviour and well-being of the donkeys, other owners at the brick kiln were inspired to follow the practice too. Soon the brushing turned into a daily activity at the brick kiln. A positive change was noticed in the overall health and well-being of the animals. Owners reported that the animals are at ease, and they don't have to resort to beating or restraining the animals.

As animals feel better, the work goes on at the brick kiln unhindered, earning the owners a decent wage. This has encouraged the owners to stick to the practice of daily brushing.



OUR KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS:



FIND MORE ABOUT US AT:



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